Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

By using an entry number (WRB number) of a re-order buffer-6, each of a plurality of function units such as an operation unit-3, a store unit-4, a load unit-5, etc. notifies to the re-order buffer-6 the processing end for ~~a~~ an instruction stored in the entry concerned in the unit thereof. The load unit-5 manages the latest speculation state of a load instruction issued on the basis of a branch prediction success/failure signal output ~~from~~provided by the branch unit ~~2, and makes no~~ but does not provide notification to the re-order buffer-6 on the basis of the WRB number for subsequent load instructions of the branching instruction which the branching/prediction has failed ~~of a branch-prediction-failed branch instruction~~ even ~~when~~ if the processing of the instruction is finished. Accordingly, the re-order buffer-6 can re-use entries in which the subsequent instructions of the branching instruction which the branching-prediction has ~~branch prediction~~ failed ~~branch instruction~~ are stored.

3